Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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LETTER DATED 4 MAY 1998 FROM THE ALTERNATE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION OF MYANMAR ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

I have the honour to transmit to you, on behalf of the delegations of the ASEAN countries participating in the second session of the Preparatory Committee, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, and my own, the attached statement.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for its distribution as a document of the Preparatory Committee.

(Signed) U Mya Than
Alternate Leader
Delegation of Myanmar

GE.98-61141

Statement by the ASEAN countries on the South-East-Asia-Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

It is the conviction of the ASEAN countries that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States in the regions concerned and nuclear-weapon-free countries in various parts of the world constitutes an effective measure of limiting the geographic proliferation of nuclear weapons; enhances regional peace and security, and contributes to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

In this respect, the ASEAN countries have taken a major step by establishing the South-East- Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) through the conclusion of the SEANWFZ Treaty in Bangkok on 15 December 1995. The treaty has entered into force with effect from 27 March 1997. However, the Protocol to the Treaty is yet to be accepted and ratified by the nuclear weapon States.

The States parties and signatory of the Bangkok Treaty express their desire to see the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty accepted and ratified by the nuclear weapon States and its entry into force at the earliest possible date. To this end, the States parties and signatory of the Bangkok Treaty urge the nuclear weapon States to show firm resolve and maximum flexibility and to work together with them in a spirit of amity and cooperation with a view to finding solutions to the remaining issues in the shortest possible time.

The ASEAN countries reaffirm their vision and conviction that entry into force of the SEANWFZ Treaty and, eventually, of its Protocol will make a significant contribution to the enhancement of regional and global peace and security, to the strengthening of the NPT regime and the advancement of nuclear disarmament, and to the achievement of the ultimate objective of creating a nuclear-weapon-free world.